



Gateway

Meeting 13 - 6/14/00



Metro East Sustainable Growth Resources Group

**The following is a Summary of the discussion at the June 14, 2000, meeting.
It is not a transcript of the proceedings.**

The meeting was held at St. Mary's Hospital Conference Room A, 129 North 8th Street, East St. Louis from 1-5 p.m. Group Charge: The Metro East Sustainable Growth Resources Group comprises, local, state, and federal organizations. Its mission is to gather, develop, and disseminate information regarding growth issues in the Metro East area. A synopsis of the meeting follows:

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF THE AGENDA

- 1) Review of Previous Meeting & Meeting Goal
- 2) Illinois Growth Task Force Update
- 3) Public Hearing Preparation

Attendees included: *

Todd Antoine, East-West Gateway Coordinating Council
Ted Shekell, City of O'Fallon
Thomas Grimmet, Neighbors United for Progress
Ed Weilbacher, Southwestern Illinois RC&D
Kathy Andria, Conservation Alliance & ESL Community Action Network
Nona Hancock
St. Mary Clare
Joe O'Connell, U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development
Andrew Anderson, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Janet Haff, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Noemi Emeric, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

** Other persons may have attended, but were unable to sign the sign-in sheet.*

PMCL facilitators Tim Feather & Dale Brown opened the meeting, conducted introductions, and reviewed the agenda.

II. REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MEETING & MEETING GOAL

- Approximately 27 people attended the last meeting which was held May 9, 2000, from 1-5 p.m. The meeting goal was to prepare for the Governor's Illinois Growth Task Force public hearing in Collinsville on 7/25/00. The attendees initiated a promotional campaign for the public hearing including: Message, Audience, and Communication Modes.

- A range of messages and topics were brainstormed with 21 audiences named (i.e. business community, elected officials, community leaders, non-profits) and 20 communication modes (e.g. e-mail, news release, newsletter, letters, flyers).
- The *July 14th meeting goal* was to reach consensus on final messages and a distribution strategy for the Illinois Growth Task Force public hearing. The promotional campaign goal is to inform the Metro East community of the issues and help ensure the public hearing room is filled to capacity.

III. ILLINOIS GROWTH TASK FORCE UPDATE - Ed Weilbacher

- Ed Weilbacher distributed three sets of handouts: (1) Farmland and Natural Resource Preservation Working Group materials, plans and summary of past meeting (5/8/00). A Working Group meeting was held June 27 in Bloomington and the next meeting will be held July 27th in Bloomington. Senator Maitland, Chair of the Illinois Growth Task Force has requested all reports and recommendations be made final by September 1, 2000. (2) Handouts from the other Working Groups - Infrastructure, Land Use and Transportation and Policy and Tax. (3) Copies of two St. Louis (MO) Post Dispatch newspaper articles highlighting Sustainable Growth issues (i.e. "Debate on Urban Sprawl Issue," the Sierra Club meeting and "Fairview Heights Developer asks for sales-tax rebate").
- Provided an update on the Sierra Club and other organizations' efforts to bring area residents and organizations together at a meeting held at Southwestern Illinois College. Both Ted Shekell, City of O'Fallon, and Jerry Rombach, Homebuilders Association, participated on a panel. The July 25th Illinois Growth Task Force meeting discussions and the Metro East Sustainable Growth Resources Group were highlighted at the meeting.
- The Governor's Illinois Growth Task Force public hearings will be held June 15th - Bloomington, IL; July 6 - Des Plaines, IL; and July 25 - Collinsville, IL.

IV. PUBLIC HEARING PREPARATION

- The Public Hearing preparation including finalizing and reaching consensus on the draft fact sheet created by U.S. EPA with input from Group members. The message was finalized with corresponding facts relevant to the Metro East area. The Group discussed and finalized the target audiences and what communication modes would work best and who would contact the audience. Copies of the final fact sheet will be posted on EPA's webpage at www.epa.gov/gateway.
- The fact sheet contains six major topics: Wetlands Loss/ Flooding; Deteriorating Communities; Loss of Open Space; Brownfields / Economic Development; Air Pollution; and Cost and Taxes. A hard copy of the fact sheet may be obtained from Noemi Emeric, U.S. EPA, at (312) 886-0995.



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